



Village Connect

Electronic Newsletter

"To Provide a Safe, Quality Community Environment for all Islanders through Responsible Government"

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Event Calendar

Zone 2/3 Water-Sewer Project Progress Meeting

Dates: Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2009

Time: 10:30 am

Place: BZP

Conference

Room, Village Hall

Village Council Meeting

Date: Sept. 1, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

**Labor Day:
Village Offices
Closed;**

September 2009

"Get To Know..."

Please click the link below to view an interview with Mayor Robert Vernon and get to know him better. You will enjoy the conversation and learn about some of Key Biscayne's history.

[View Interview with the Mayor](#)

A Message from the Village Manager

I hope that you enjoyed your summer and those that have children, had a successful start to the school year. Many things are ongoing on our island and we use this second issue of Village Connect to share important information.

We are excited to announce that we will be "unveiling" our Radio Station in September. This station will provide local area and traffic information. The radio station is similar to other areas where you tune into a specific position on the AM dial to obtain information as you may see on highways. Please stay tuned for announcements on this additional effort by the Village to provide relevant and timely information to its residents and guests. Also, the Community Center celebrates its fifth-year anniversary, we look back at the positive impact the Center has had on our community and look forward to what the future has in store.

Budget Update

The Village of Key Biscayne received its preliminary property tax valuation from the Miami Dade County Property Appraiser's Office on June 1st. Key Biscayne had a reduction of 8% in assessed value. On July 1st, we received the final valuation and the assessment had decreased by a total of 7.7%. This resulted in a reduction in property tax revenue to the Village of approximately \$ 1.5 million. Reduction in other revenues resulted in a total reduction of approximately \$ 2 million.

**Community
Center Open
(Monday)**

Date: Sept. 7, 2009

**Village Council
Meeting: 1st
Budget
Hearing**

Date: Sept. 8, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Council
Chamber

**September Bulky
Waste Pick-up
Week**

Dates: Sept. 14-18,
2009

**Traffic Alert: Key
Biscayne
Triathlon Trilogy
Bonus Race**

Date: Sept. 20,
2009

Time: 7:30 am

Location: Crandon
Blvd, Rickenbacker
Cswy

**Village Council
Meeting: 2nd
Budget Hearing**

Date: Sept. 22,
2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Council
Chamber

**Zone 2/3 Water/
Sewer Project
Progress Meeting**

Dates: Oct. 6, 13,
20 and 27, 2009

At its July meeting, the Village Council adopted the same millage rate, 3.2, as in the current year. We have been working on a proposed budget that will be discussed at our first budget hearing on September 8th at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers. There will be a second budget hearing on September 22nd, also at 7 pm. We encourage your participation as we work on adopting a budget during these tough economic times.

We are working on minimizing service impacts and identifying cost-cutting measures and inefficiencies within our budget. Your input is valuable and we look forward to productive discussions at the Council Meeting. Go to our website at www.keybiscayne.fl.gov to view the preliminary proposed budget on Friday September 4th.

Community Center Marks 5th Anniversary

October 30, 2009 marks an important milestone for the Village Community Center: its doors opened to the public on that date in 2005. Active Islanders of all ages - seniors, adults, children and teens - have a safe place to play, get fit, make new friends, connect with neighbors, and even take up a new pastime. Member input over the years has resulted in the addition, expansion, and improvement of many of the Center's programs and activities. These will continue in the months and years to come along with facility upgrades. Learn more, including about special celebratory events, at www.activeislander.org.

Back to School Safety Tips from the KBPD

If your child rides a bicycle to school, ensure that she/he wears a properly fitted bicycle helmet. Bicycle laws and more safety tips are given at the [Village website's Bicycle Safety page](#). If your child walks to school, pick a route with sidewalks, if possible. Ensure your child knows to cross streets at



intersections with crosswalks and with a crossing guard, when one is available. Never cross in the middle of the block. If you drive your child to school, remember to buckle up. Seat belt use is required by law for everyone under the age of 18, and for all adults riding in the front of a vehicle (including golf carts). Learn more at the [Seat Belt and Child Restraint Safety web page](#). If you have questions about any of these safety issues, contact D.A.R.E. Officer Victoria Cruz or either of the Traffic Unit Officers, Nelia Real or Raul Jaime, at (305) 365-5555.

Be Prepared for the Rest of Hurricane Season

Did you know that September 10th is the statistical peak of the



Time: 10:30 am
Place: BZP
Conference
Room, Village Hall

**Columbus Day:
Village Offices
Closed;
Community
Center Open
(Monday)**

Date: Oct. 12, 2009

**Traffic Alert:
Caribbean Beach
Festival**

Dates: Oct. 12-13,
2009

Time: 4:00 pm-2:00
am

Place: Virginia Key
Beach Park

**October Bulky
Waste Pick-up
Week**

Dates: Oct. 13-16,
2009

**Village Council
Meeting**

Date: Oct. 13, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Council
Chamber

**Village Council
Meeting (Zoning)**

Date: Oct. 27, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Council
Chamber

**Community
Center**

Atlantic Hurricane Season? We still have 3 months to go until the 2009 season officially ends on November 30. Now is the time to double-check your hurricane plan and make sure your evacuation and shelter-in-place kits are stocked. The [Village's Hurricane and Flood Information web pages](#) are full of information and handy checklists to prepare your family, pets, home and garden, pool, vehicles and boat.



Water-Sewer-Reuse Project Update

Sewer work on West Mashta Drive, the last street in Zone 2/3 west of Crandon Boulevard to receive the improvement, will begin in September. Road reconstruction and switching of water service to new pipes continues elsewhere in this zone. All homes in Zone 1 and 4 are already hooked up to the new water pipes. Zone 4 residents should be able to begin to connect to the new sewer system by September. For weekly updates on work areas, street closures, detours, etc., visit the [WSR News Article at the Village website](#).

Hurricane Season Also is Seaweed Season

Seaweed accumulation along the Key Biscayne beach occurs naturally year-round but intensifies during the six months of hurricane season. The amount of seaweed deposited varies and is dependent on the direction of the wind and currents as well as



on tidal stages. The Village beach maintenance contractor rakes up the seaweed every morning and reintegrates it into the sand in front of the dune system. This nourishes and stabilizes the dunes and is a major factor in keeping the beach from eroding further inland. Learn more at the [Village website's Seaweed Information page](#).

Village Department News You Can Use

Building, Zoning and Planning:

Our sign regulations were enacted to preserve the unique aesthetic character of the Village. They protect property values, create a better business climate, enhance the physical appearance of the community, improve vehicular and pedestrian safety and reduce visual pollution. Real estate and political signs are allowed in the right of way with the property owner's consent. Signs along Crandon Boulevard are not allowed. If you have a question, call William Fehr, Zoning Plans Reviewer, at (305) 365-5502. The full text of the Village Code of Ordinances Article VIII: Signs is available at the [Sign Regulations web page](#).

Fire Rescue:

**5th Anniversary
Family Block
Party**

Date: October 30,
2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: 10 Village
Green

Way in front of
Center

**Village's
Halloween
Haunted House**

Date: October 31,
2009

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: 530 Crandon
Blvd

**Community
Center
5th Anniversary
Open House**

Date: November 1,
2009

Time: 12:00-6:00
pm

Place: Community
Center

*More information on
these events is
available at the
[Village website](#)
[Event Calendar](#)*

Contact Information

Village Manager
(305) 365-8919

Village Clerk
(305) 365-5506

Public Works

Protect yourself and your family by installing and maintaining smoke alarms in your residence. Smoke alarms are an early warning system that give you the chance to escape a fire. You can install battery-powered smoke alarms yourself; always have a qualified electrician install hard-wired units. Batteries in both types of alarms should be replaced at least once a year. The alarms themselves last about 8-10 years. Answers to frequently asked questions about smoke alarms are available at the Village website's [Smoke Alarm Tips page](#).

Parks and Recreation:

Brave trick-or-treaters of all ages are invited to the Village Halloween Haunted House on October 31. The Haunted House is located at the rear of the Village property at 530 Crandon Boulevard (across from the Community Center) and will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm. Visitors are urged to walk to the venue since parking is limited and many children will be out in the street. Be advised that sections of streets near the Community Center will be closed to vehicular traffic for everyone's safety.

Police:

The [Key Biscayne P.A.L. Youth Directors Program](#), open to anyone between 11-17 years old, resumes on September 17. High school students, who can serve as mentors to middle school members, are encouraged to join. Meetings are held from 5:00-7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Police Department. Last year, P.A.L. kids logged more than 100 community service hours. This year's goal is to double that number. For more information, call Officer Victoria Cruz at (305) 365-5555 x1128.

Public Works:

Oversight of daily maintenance along the Village beachfront is an important service provided by Public Works. Residents and guests can help keep the beach and ocean clean by properly disposing of trash during their visits. Do not litter. Trash cans that are emptied daily are available at regular intervals along the Village beach. Kindly inform the beachgoers next to you if they forget to pick up after themselves. Make the extra effort to pick-up any trash you may see, even if it is not yours. The Village and your neighbors thank you!

Comments? Questions? Suggestions? Send an email to jmedina@keybiscayne.fl.gov

Your Village Government

Mayor Robert Vernon

Vice Mayor Michael Davey

Councilmembers:

(305) 365-8945

Police

(305) 365-5555

Fire

(305) 365-8989

Community Center

(305) 365-8900

**Building, Zoning, and
Planning**

(305) 365-5512

Village Hall

88 West McIntyre Street
Key Biscayne, Florida
33149

www.keybiscayne.fl.gov

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